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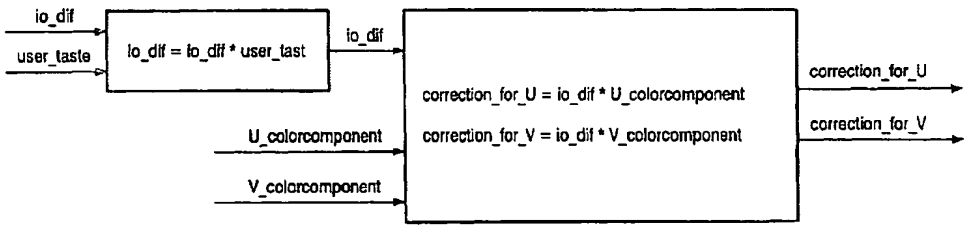
(54) Title: IMAGE PROCESSING



(57) Abstract: In almost all contemporary TVs peaking techniques are used today to enhance the picture. This means that the edges are sharpened in the luminance channel by using of peaking or peaking-like circuits such as, for instance, luminance transient improvement techniques. By such technique black parts near the edge are usually pushed towards more black color and white parts are pushed towards more white color. As a result the picture appears sharper and crisper. However, the picture also gives a "hard" impression in said parts, the reason for this being that the image signal has been corrected solely with regard to a luminance component and not with regard to a color component. The proposed method aims to increase the saturation level at those parts, in particular by processing the input image signal in a region of an edge location, wherein at least the image characteristics of a color component are corrected by amplifying the color component. Advantageously, the correction of the color component is processed as a function of an original local saturation level, an original local luminance level or a local difference between an original and a peaked image signal. The object of such measures is restricted not only to improving the sharpness of an image but also to improving an overall impression of an image, in particular near edge locations.

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